

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3587
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
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UNCLAS MANAGUA 3007

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, PINR, NU
SUBJECT: SPECIAL IATTC MEETING ON PORPOISE

REF: STATE 137534

1. EMBOOFF DISCUSSED SUBJECT MEETING WITH DR. GILBERTO BERGMANN PADILLA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATURAL RESOURCES, MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, WHO INDICATED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH US EFFORTS TO EXPAND ROLE OF INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC) IN PORPOISE RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION. HE PREFERS TO VIEW IATTC'S ROLE AS PRIMARILY ONE OF "COORDINATION", HOWEVER.

2. BERGMANN SAID HE WILL HEAD NICARAGUAN DELEGATION TO JUNE 27-29 MEETING IN SAN DIEGO. THAT DELEGATION, HE ADDED, WILL INCLUDE LIC. JOSE B. GODOY, VICE MANAGER OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (INFONAC); JAMIL URROZ, CHIEF OF THE FISHERIES DIVISION, (INFONAC); ING. ANTONIO FLORES ARANA, HEAD OF THE NICARAGUAN FISHING INDUSTRY CHAMBER; AND COL. OCTAVIO GUTIERREZ, MANAGER OF SOLEX, A FISHING COMPANY OWNED BY PRESIDENT SOMOZA.

3. BERGMANN STRESSED THAT THE GON IS VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF PROTECTING PORPOISE AND THAT SOME \$250,000 HAS BEEN SPENT ON BUYING
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NEW TUNA NETS FOR NICARAGUA'S TWO TUNA FISHING BOATS, WHICH NETS SHOULD REDUCE THE ACCIDENTAL KILLING OF PORPOISE WHILE PURSE SEINING FOR TUNA.

4. WITH REGARD TO SELLING NICARAGUAN-CAUGHT TUNA IN THE US, BERGMANN SAID THAT NICARAGUA'S TUNA BOATS WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THE US REGULATIONS ON THE

TAKING AND IMPORTING OF MARINE MAMMALS (STATE A-1353 AND STATE 49988), EXCEPT FOR TWO POINTS: (A) CARRYING AMERICAN INSPECTORS ON NICARAGUAN FISHING BOATS; AND (B) PORPOISE MORTALITY RATES.

5. BERGMAN APPARENTLY FEELS THAT THE REQUIREMENT THAT US INSPECTORS BE ON THE NICARAGUAN BOATS IS AN INFRINGEMENT UPON NICARAGUAN SOVEREIGNTY. HE INQUIRED WHETHER AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE FOR THE GON TO TRAIN AND PAY THE SALARIES OF ITS OWN CITIZEN INSPECTORS. THE INSPECTION TRAINING WOULD BE ARRANGED THROUGH THE IATTC.

6. WITH REGARD TO PORPOISE MORTALITY RATES, BERGMANN HOPED THAT SUCH RATES WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DISPROPORTINATELY SMALL SIZE OF NICARAGUA'S TUNA FISHING FLEET, I.E. ONLY TWO BOATS.

7. BERGMANN WILL SOON BE DISCUSSING GON'S OFFICIAL POSITION ON THESE MATTERS WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA. IT IS UP TO THE LATTER TO RATIFY, REJECT OR MODIFY BERGMANN'S RECOMMENDATIONS.
RUBENSTEIN

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